

The Enigma of Amigara Fault





NOT TOO
LONG AGO,
THERE WAS
A GREAT
EARTHQUAKE
IN H—
PREFECTURE.

SEVERAL
TOWNS AND
VILLAGES
WERE
DEVASTATED.



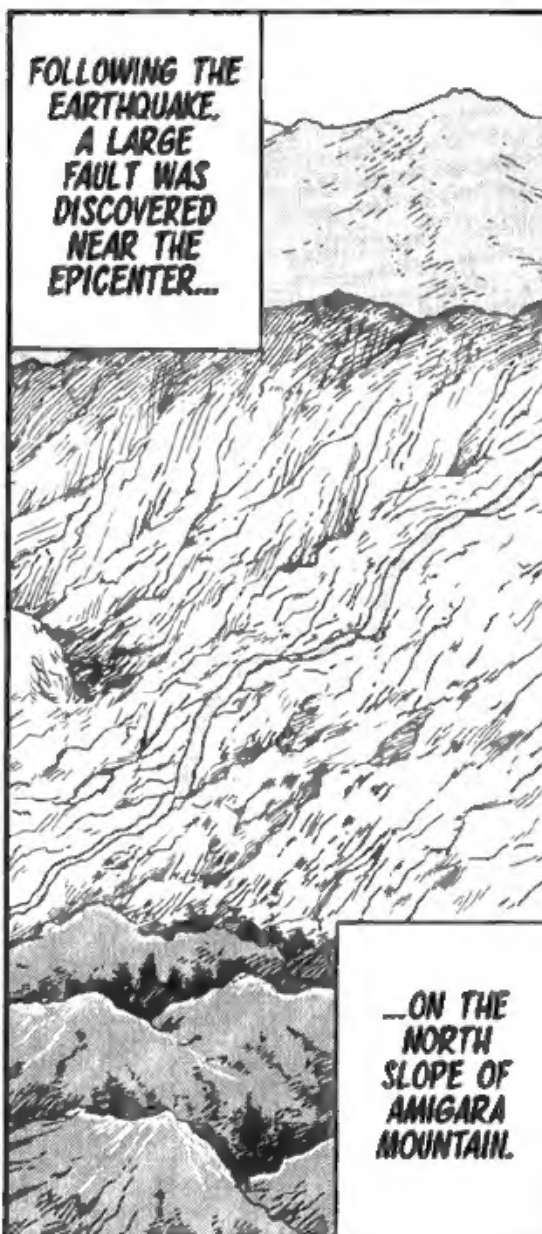
THE FAULT
WAS DEEP
AND
SEVERAL
KILOMETERS
LONG.

FOLLOWING THE
EARTHQUAKE,
A LARGE
FAULT WAS
DISCOVERED
NEAR THE
EPICENTER...



...OF THE
BEGINNING
OF THIS
STRANGE
INCIDENT.

THIS
WAS
THE
SIGN...



...ON THE
NORTH
SLOPE OF
AMIGARA
MOUNTAIN.



BUT I
STILL
HAVEN'T
SEEN
ANYTHING
...

AM I
STILL ON
AMIGARA
MOUNTAIN?
I'VE BEEN
CLIMBING
FOR A
WHILE...



HMM
...





I THOUGHT THAT MUST BE WHY YOU CAME HERE. I MEAN NO OFFENSE, A WOMAN HIKER, ALL ALONE.

SO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE FAULT, TOO?



I'M YOSHIDA.

I'M OWAKI... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?



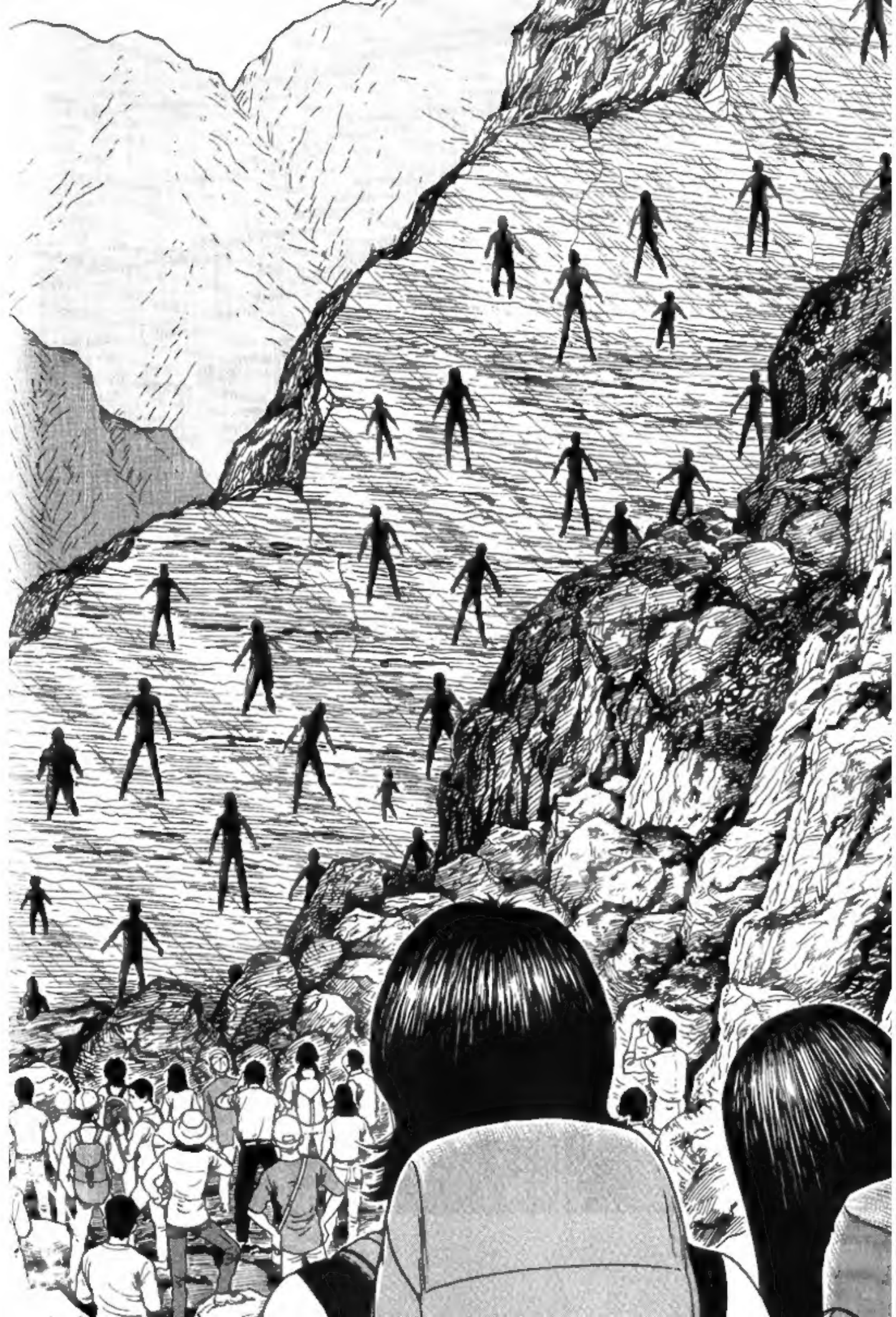
IT'S A REAL MYSTERY, ISN'T IT?

REALLY? IT WAS THE SAME WITH ME.



WHEN I SAW IT I KNEW I HAD TO GO.









IN
ANY
CASE
...

HMM...IT
SEEMS
TO CURVE
OFF INSIDE
THE
MOUNTAIN.



HOW
DEEP
DO YOU
THINK
IT GOES,
PROFESSOR
?

EVEN THIS
30-METER
FIBER SCOPE
CAN'T FIND
THE END.



BUT HOW
COULD YOU
DIG THIS
SHAPE OUT
OF SUCH
SOLID ROCK?



IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
THAT THIS
COULD BE
A NATURAL
FORMATION...

SOMEONE
MUST HAVE
DUG THEM
OUT FROM
INSIDE.



I THINK
THE ENTRANCE
WAS SEALED
UP WITH THE
ACCUMULATION
OF SOIL OVER
THE YEARS...

...THE SAME
FORCES
THAT
COVERED
UP THESE
HOLES.



BESIDES,
WOULDN'T THERE
BE A TRACE
OF AN ENTRANCE
OF SOME KIND?

NO ONE'S
FOUND
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.



THEN THESE
HOLES MUST BE
ANCIENT. BUT IF
THAT'S THE CASE,
WHO HAD THE
TECHNOLOGY TO
MAKE THEM?



CAREFUL,
YOSHIDA.

IT'S
STEEP.



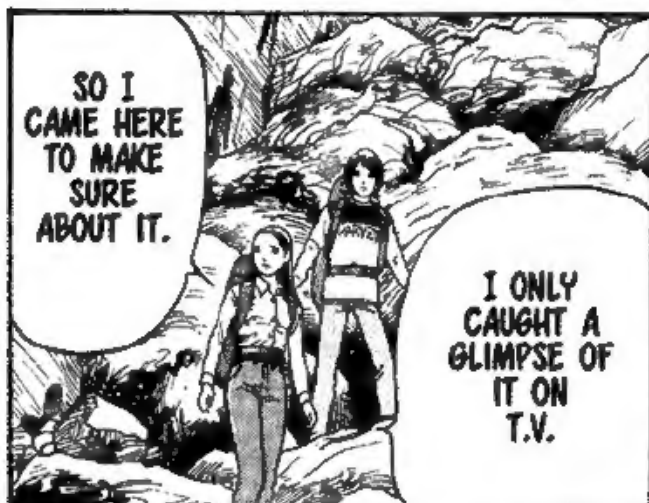
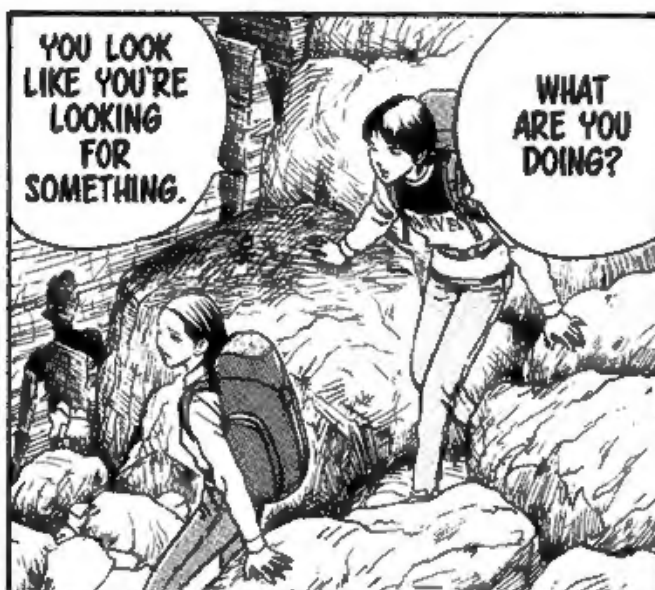
GLANCE

GLANCE

...

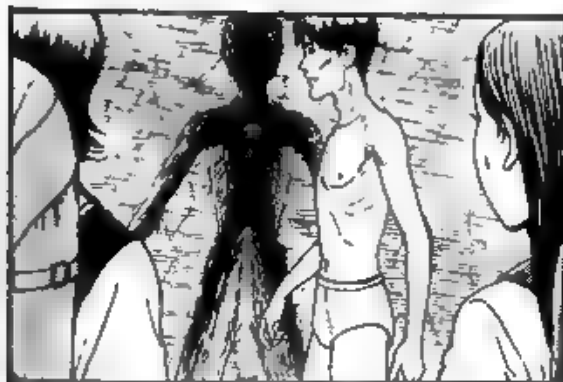
HARVEST

AND
WHAT
PURPOSE
DID THEY
SERVE...?











ONE
OF THEIR
MEMBERS,
5'7" TALL,
IS TRYING
TO GO
IN...

A
RESCUE
SQUAD IS
ATTEMPTING
TO ENTER
THE HOLE.

OVER
THREE HOURS
HAVE ELAPSED
SINCE HIS
DISAPPEARANCE.

WE NOW
HAVE THIS
UPDATE ON
THE MAN WHO
DISAPPEARED
INTO ONE OF
THE MYSTERIOUS
HOLES...



HE MUST
HAVE BEEN
CRAZY TO
GO IN
THERE!

THE 5'7"
RESCUE SQUAD
MEMBER HAD TO
RETREAT AFTER GOING
NO MORE THAN FIVE
METERS INTO
THE HOLE...



NIGHT HAS
FALLEN AND
THERE'S NO
SIGN OF THE
MAN WHO
WENT INTO
THE HOLE.



I WAS
COMPLETELY
TRAPPED
IN PITCH
BLACKNESS,
HUNDREDS
OF METERS
INTO THE
HOLE.

THAT
NIGHT I
HAD A
NIGHTMARE.

IN MY
DREAM,
I WAS
NAKAGAKI.

...THE EARTHQUAKE.
THE HOLE MUST
HAVE BEEN DEFORMED
BY THE EARTHQUAKE.
SO I CAN'T
MOVE...

I-I
CAN'T
MOVE...

I'M
STUCK
...

AGGH...
GGH...
GGH...

ANYONE!
HELP
ME!

S-
SOME-
ONE!





I FOUND MY HOLE.



I FOUND IT.

WHAT IS IT?



I NEED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.

NEVER MIND... OWAKI, CAN YOU COME WITH ME?



NO WONDER I COULDN'T FIND IT.

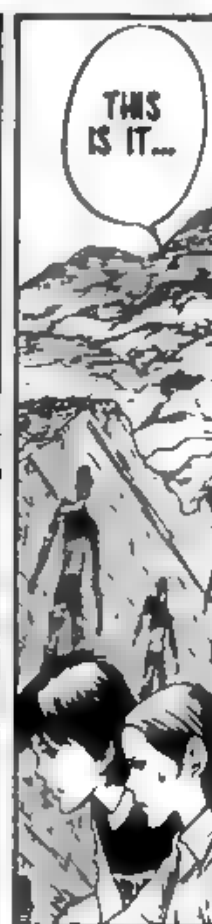
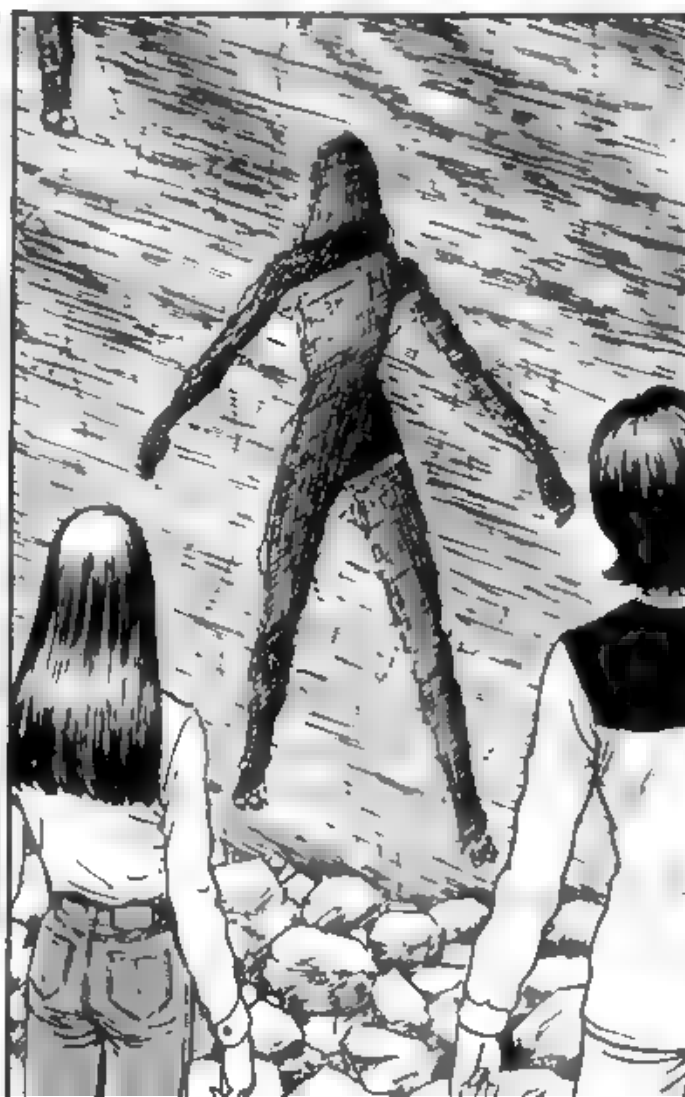
IT TURNED OUT IT WAS FURTHER DOWN AT THE FOOT OF THE FAULT.



WELL, IT DOES LOOK KIND OF LIKE YOU...



IT'S IDENTICAL TO ME.

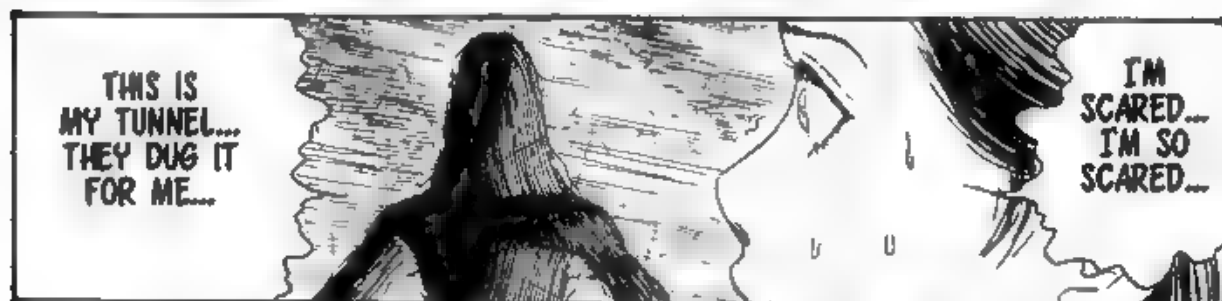


THIS IS IT...



WHY
ARE YOU
SHAKING?

YOSHIDA
WHAT
IS IT?



THIS IS
MY TUNNEL...
THEY DUG IT
FOR ME...

I'M
SCARED...
I'M SO
SCARED...

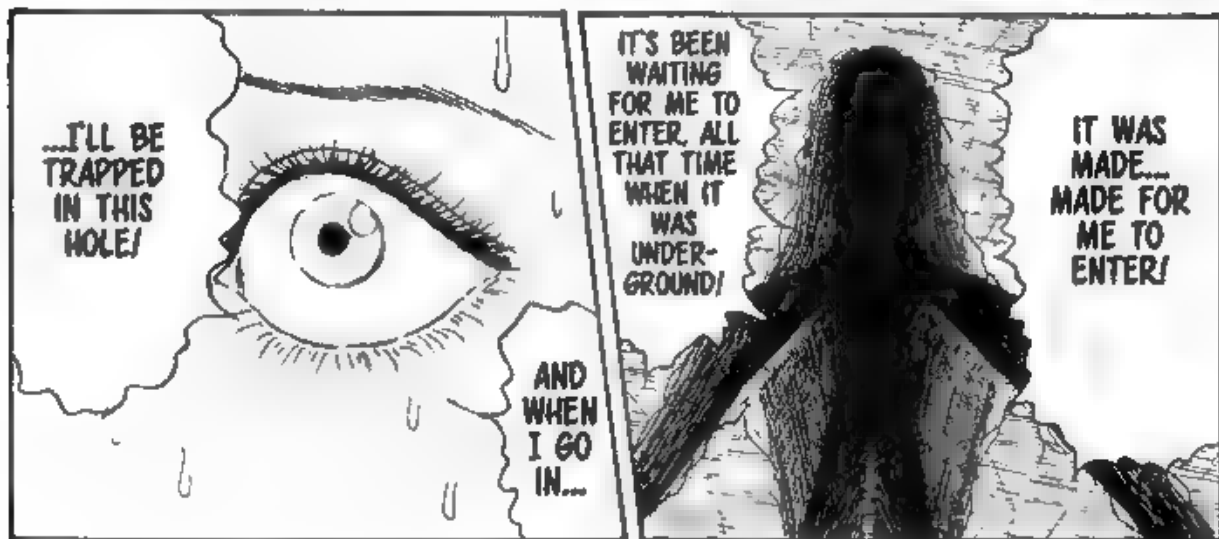


THIS
IS MY
TUNNEL!

NO...

IT JUST
HAPPENS
TO LOOK
A LITTLE
LIKE YOU!

IT'S
JUST A
COINCI-
DENCE
!!



...I'LL BE
TRAPPED
IN THIS
HOLE!

AND
WHEN
I GO
IN...

IT'S BEEN
WAITING
FOR ME TO
ENTER. ALL
THAT TIME
WHEN IT
WAS
UNDER-
GROUND!

IT WAS
MADE...
MADE FOR
ME TO
ENTER!



HEY...



...HAS
DISAPPEARED.
HE HAS
VANISHED
WITHOUT A
TRACE.

IT HAS
BEEN A FULL
DAY SINCE THE
MAN WHO
WALKED INTO
THE HOLE...



HEY,
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING!/?
GET DOWN
HERE BEFORE
YOU HURT
YOURSELF!!



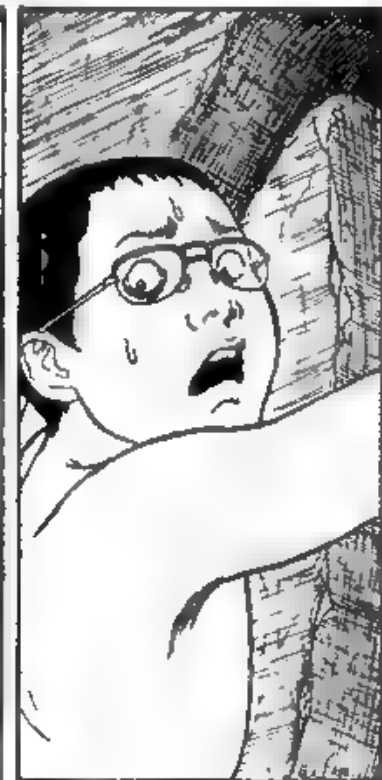
WHAT'S
THAT
KID
DOING?

LOOK
OVER
THERE!



IT WAS
MADE FOR
ME!

TH-
THIS IS
MY
HOLE!





H-HEY!!

TELL MY MOM GOOD-BYE!



I HAVE TO GO IN!



...AND ENTER THE HOLES....!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!! OTHERS MIGHT FOLLOW HIM NOW...



S-STOP!! SOMEBODY STOP HIM!



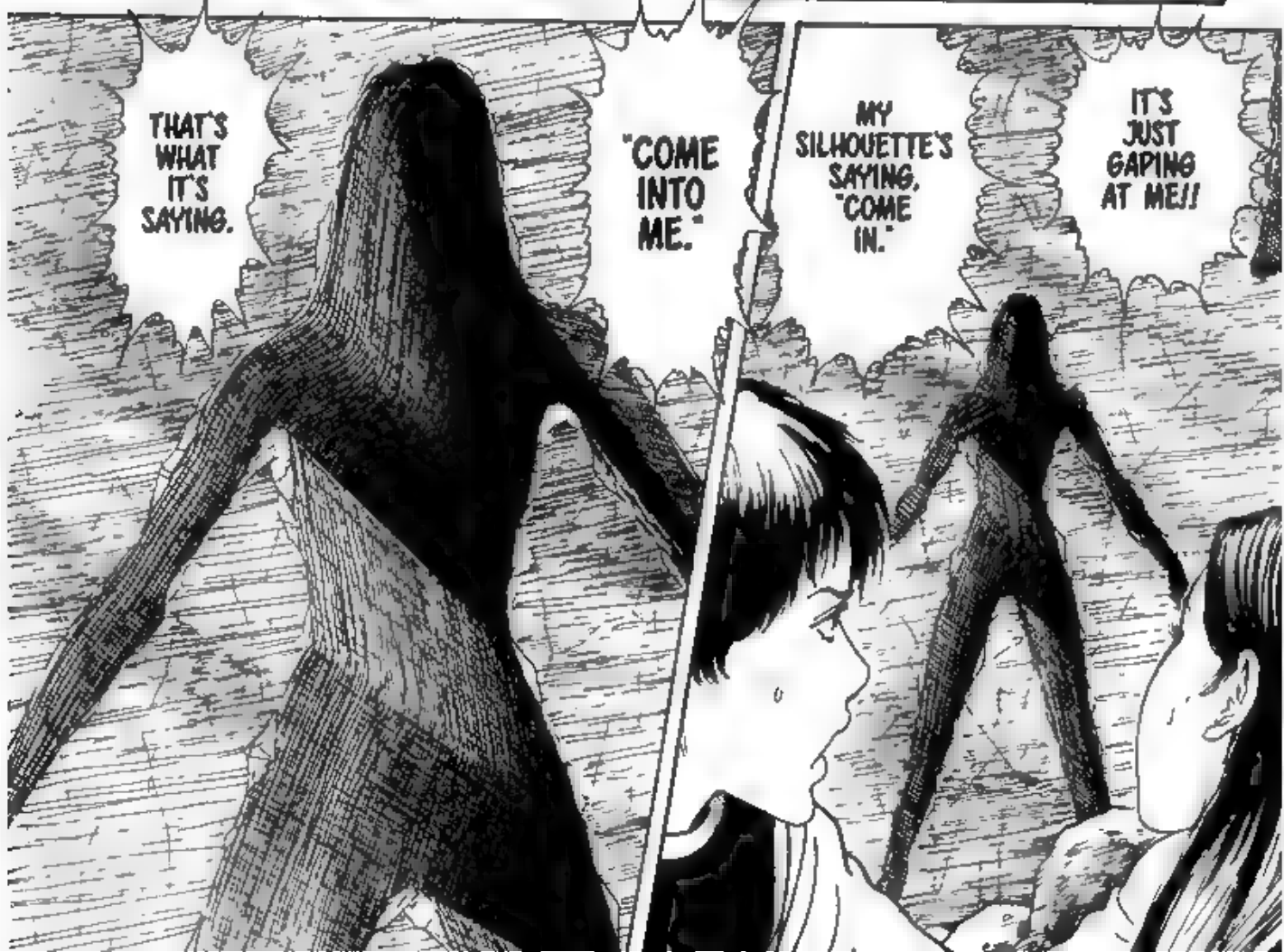
QUICK! GET THEM OUT!

HERE, TOO!!



LOOK OVER HERE!! SOMEONE ELSE JUST WENT IN!

OH NO--!!





JUST
WATCH
ME!!

I'LL
FILL
THIS
HOLE
UP!



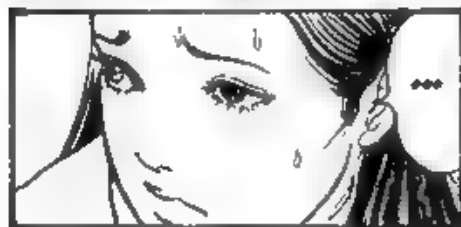
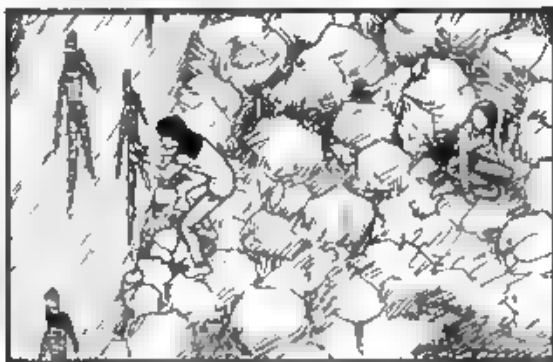
GET
A
HOLD
OF
YOUR-
SELF!

OH
GOD! OH
GOD I'M
SCARED!

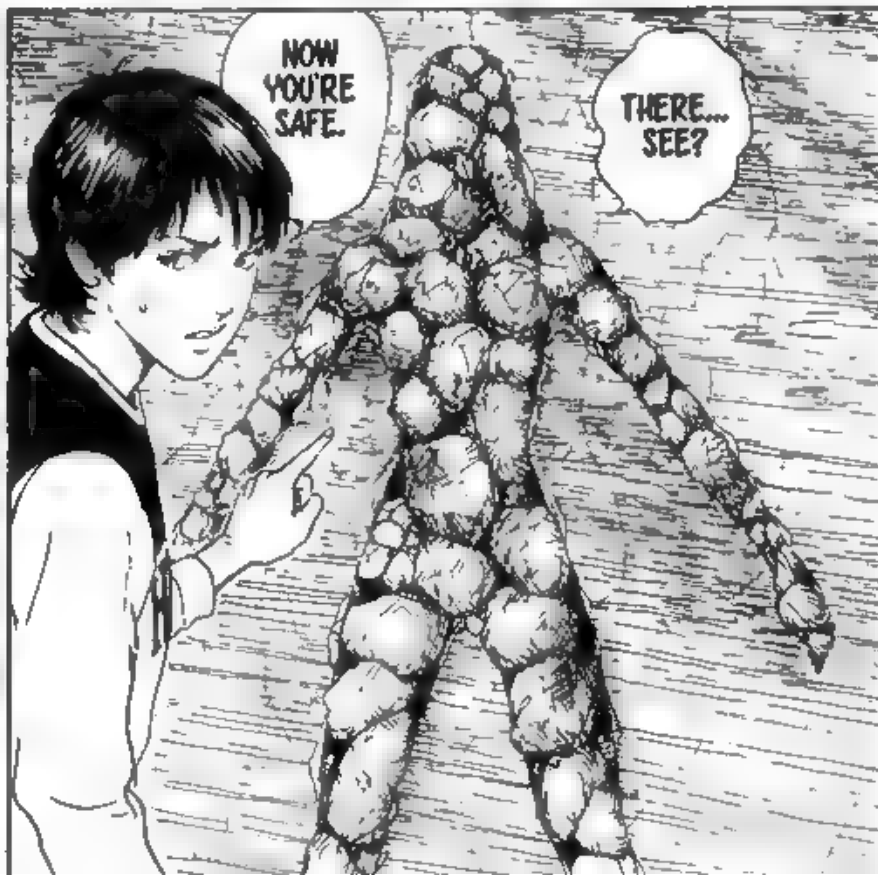
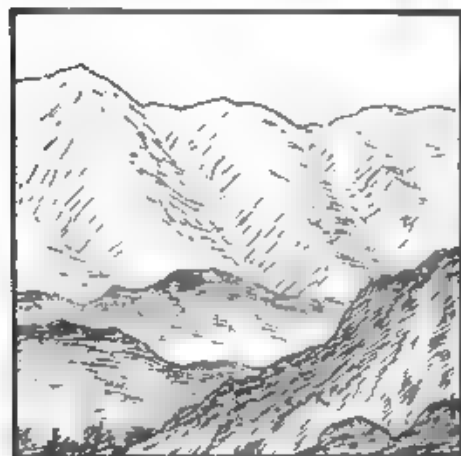


I'LL
HELP
YOU.

ALL
RIGHT,
IF YOU'RE
SO
SCARED...

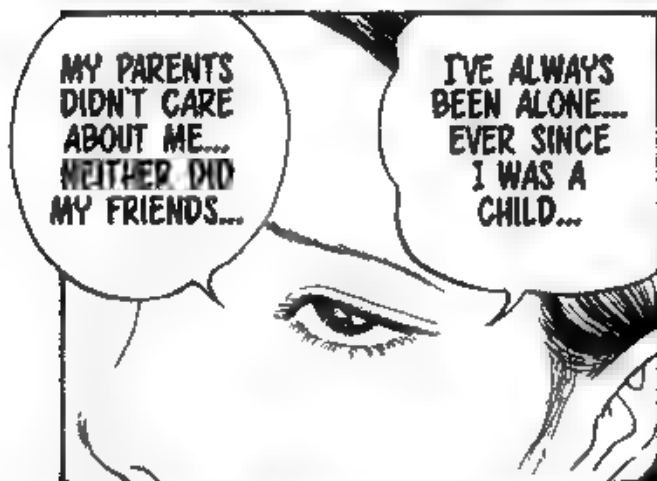
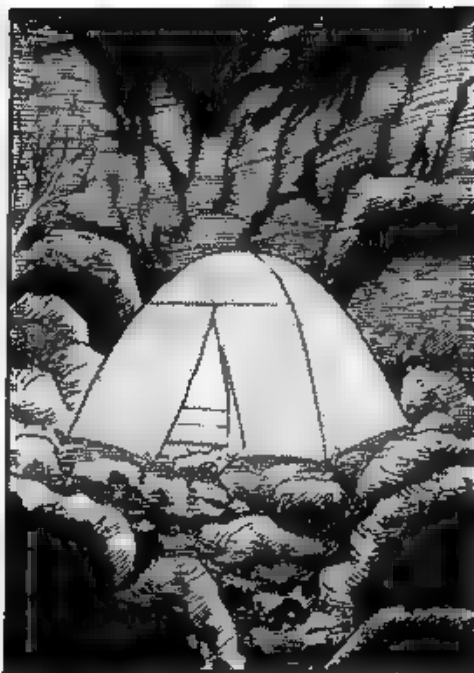


...



NOW
YOU'RE
SAFE.

THERE...
SEE?





YES.



I HAD COMMITTED A HORRIBLE CRIME, AND I WAS ABOUT TO BE PUNISHED.

IT WAS ANOTHER TIME...I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG AGO.

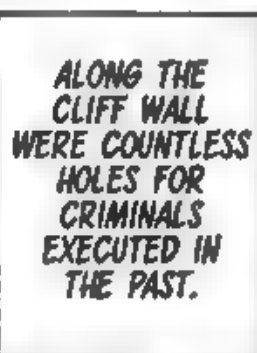


THAT NIGHT I HAD ANOTHER NIGHTMARE.

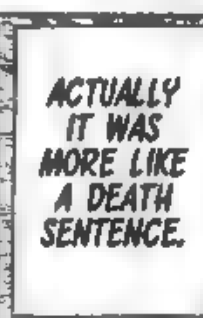


I WAS ABOUT TO ENTER THIS HOLE.

WHEN A PERSON COMMITTED A CRIME OF MY MAGNITUDE, THE PEOPLE IN THE PAST WOULD DIG HUMAN-SHAPED HOLES...



ALONG THE CLIFF WALL WERE COUNTLESS HOLES FOR CRIMINALS EXECUTED IN THE PAST.



ACTUALLY IT WAS MORE LIKE A DEATH SENTENCE.



AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA



...I WAS
SLIDING
SLOWLY,
SLOWLY
DOWN...
MOVING
FORWARD
WITH EACH
MOVEMENT
I MADE.

THE WALLS
WERE CARVED
IN A WAY
THAT KEPT
YOU FROM
RETREATING...



I HAD NO
CHOICE BUT
TO MOVE
FORWARD,
INTO THE
CLAUSTRO-
PHOBIA ALL
AROUND.

I FELT
THE COLD
STONE ON
ALL SIDES
AROUND
ME.



...STRETCHING
IT UNTIL
IT SHOULD
HAVE TORN
OFF.

TO MY
HORROR,
THE PART
CORRESPONDING
TO MY
NECK ONLY
GOT LONGER
AND LONGER...

UNHH...
UNHH...!!

URR...



I
FELT A
TUG
ON MY
NECK.

AND
WITH
TIME...



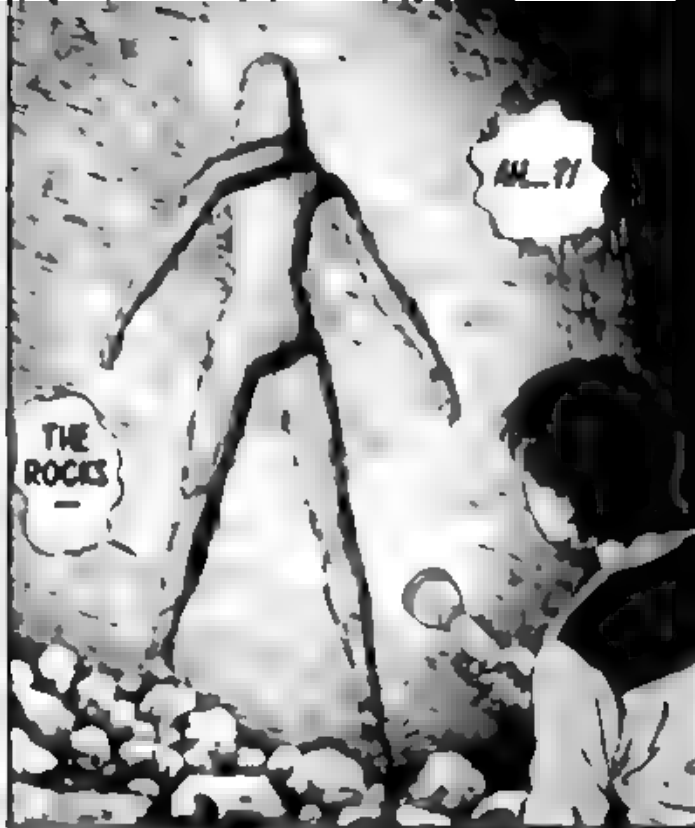
SOMEONE!
ANYONE!
HELP
ME!

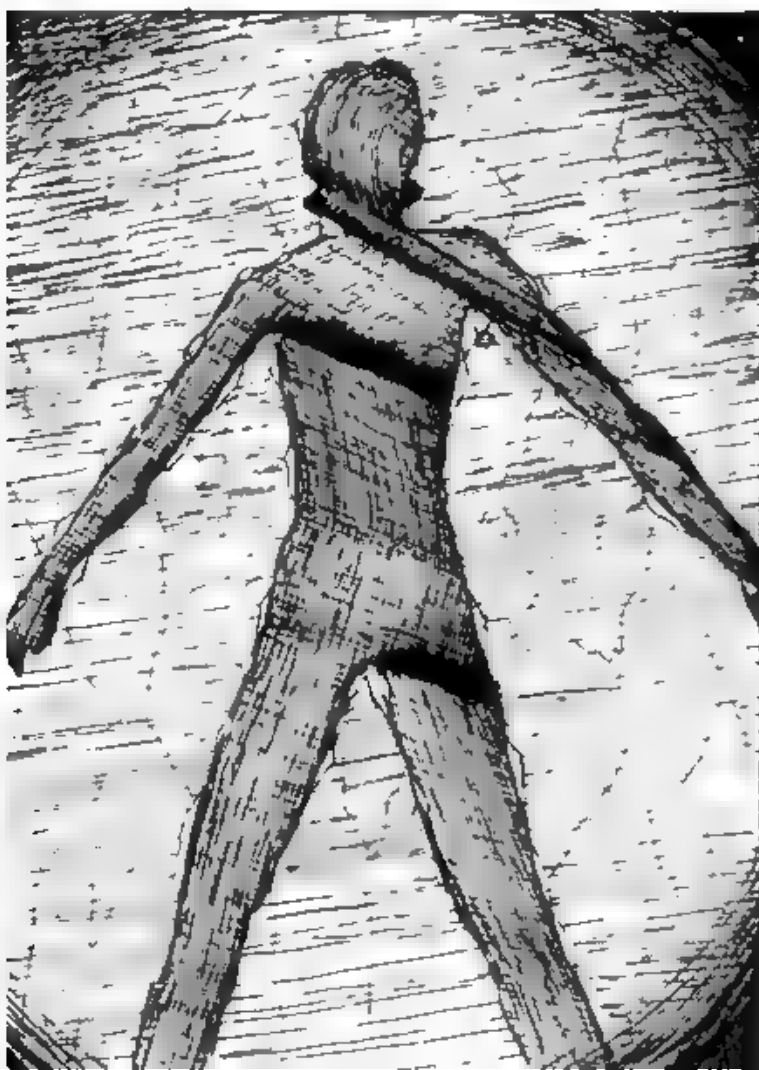


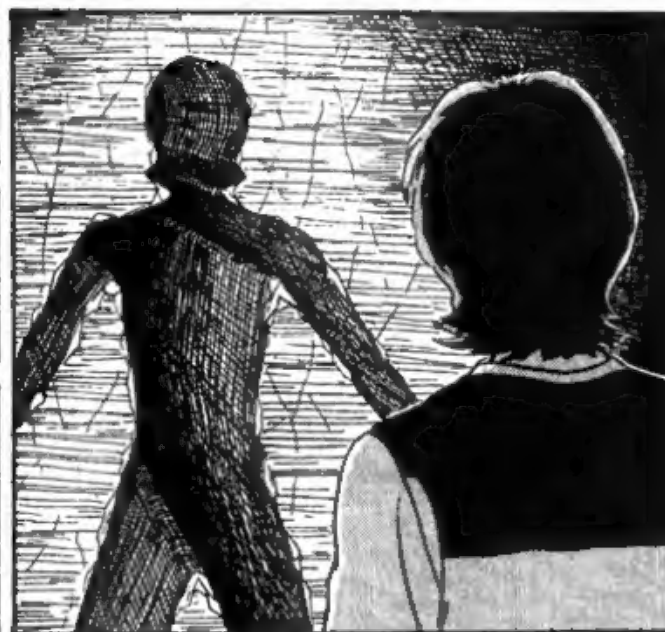
THE HOLE
STRETCHED
OUT INTO
SEVERAL
DIRECTIONS
AT ONCE...

NO...NOT
JUST MY
NECK...MY
ARMS, LEGS,
AND TORSO...









JUST
AS THAT
CLIMBER
INFORMED
US.

PROFES-
SOR...
HERE
IT IS!!

SO
THERE WAS
A FAULT
ON THE
OTHER SIDE
OF THE
MOUNTAIN!!

SEVERAL
MONTHS
LATER...

DON'T
REALLY
HAVE ANY
FORM...

THERE
ARE HOLES,
BUT THEY'RE
NOT HUMAN
SHAPED...

BUT
UNLIKE
THE ONE
ON THE
OTHER
SIDE,
THIS ONE'S
QUITE
SMALL.

HMM...
I'M SURE
THIS WAS
FORMED
BY THE
EARTHQUAKE
AS WELL.

TAKE
A
LOOK
AT
THIS!

AHA!



THE ENIGMA OF
AMIGARA FAULT: THE END

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Junji Ito was born in 1963 in Gifu-ken, Japan. Beginning with his debut story, "Tomie," in 1987, Ito has gone on to become Japan's leading horror comics artist. His influences include classic manga greats Kazuo Umezu (*Orochi*) and Hideshi Hino (*Hell Baby*), and the American horror author H.P. Lovecraft. Several of Ito's works have been published to critical acclaim in English in the United States, including *Tomie* and *Uzumaki*, which has been nominated for the Eisner Award and was also made into a live-action film.